AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Amend the following paragraph(s):

[0005] -- Another construction of a carrying bag for brass instruments involves the use of a plate which can be made of hard fibers, wood, plastic or metal and is placed or incorporated in the area of a front or end surface to extend continuously from top to bottom. A carrying bag of this type is relatively heavy. Moreover, while the incorporated plates may provide protection against impacts that strike the respective end surface in a direction perpendicular to the plate, they afford no protection against blows from the side. Thus, the rim of the bell of, e.g., a trumpet placed into the carrying bag, is still exposed to a risk of damage by blows.--.

[0021] -- FIG. 4 is a plan view of an end surface of still another embodiment of a carrying bag according to the present invention.--.

[0026] -- The stiffening frame 14 is comprised of ~~an annular, closed~~ end piece 16, which is constructed in the form of a closed ring with an opening 13, and a rim portion 18 which is arranged all-round about the end piece 16 and extends inwards. Practice has shown that it is sufficient to provide the end piece 16 with a width "a" of about 2 cm to 6 cm and the rim portion 18 with a width "b" of about 2 cm to 6 cm, to thereby achieve the desired protection against blows from the side and even from the back. Hereby, the provision of the rim portion 18 is especially

effective. In the non-limiting example of FIG. 1, the width "a" is 3 cm and the width "b" is 3 cm. Dimensioning of the widths "a" and "b" is dependent on the size of the bell of the brass instrument that is intended for transport.--.

[0027] -- Examples of a suitable material for the stiffening frame 14 include plastic such as e.g. acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene copolymer (ABS), which is relatively inexpensive and lightweight, or polypropylene or nylon. Plastics ~~involve~~ involved here should be easy to make or to process, e.g. through deep-drawing in the case of ABS. Other production methods that are conceivable include spraying. In general, the stiffening frame 14 has substantial strength but yet is elastic enough to satisfy the demanded protective function. Other material examples include light metal, such as aluminum, or wood. A metal frame may be made through casting. A wooden frame may be of single-piece configuration or may be ~~made~~ of multi-part configuration.--.

[0028] -- In some applications, it may be sufficient to incorporate the stiffening frame 14 inside the shell 2 in the area of the inner side of the end surface 12 and to clamp it there. Of course, a permanent and tight securement of the stiffening frame [[12]] 14 upon the inner wall surface or in the area of the corners of the carrying bag 1 may be realized as well. The ~~carrying~~ stiffening frame 14 may be secured by gluing, riveting, or threaded engagement. If replacement or exchange is intended, the provision of a Velcro fastener is conceivable as well.--.

[0032] -- During transport of the brass instrument in the carrying bag 1 of FIG. 1, the end surface 12, upon which the bell 30 of the brass instrument bears against, extends vertically, whereas the end surface 12 of the shell 2 of the carrying bag 1b of FIG. 2 extends at an inclination in relation to the vertical. Still, in all embodiments of the carrying bag 1, 1a, 1b, the configuration of the incorporated stiffening frame 14 rests against the contour in the area of the edges or corners of the shell 2.--.